

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph that spans p. 5, ln 25 to p. 6, ln. 2 as follows:

Referring to Figs. 4 and 5, post system 22 includes a post base 30 connectable to railing post 24. Post base 30 includes a base member 42 and a housing member 44 connected to and extending from the member. Housing member ~~42~~ 44 may be connected to base member 42 via welding or adhesives. Preferably, housing member ~~42~~ 44 and base member 42 are integrally formed. Base member 42 includes holes 46 whereby fasteners 45 may be inserted to attach post system 22 to a surface. Fasteners 47 with a dimension of  $\varnothing 8 \times 80$  may be used to connect post base 30 to railing post 24. Additionally, post base 30 may be connected to railing post 24 via welding or adhesives.

Please amend the paragraph that spans p. 6, ln 4 to p. 6, ln. 10 as follows:

As illustrated in Fig. 5, post base 30 includes an inner member 48 and an outer member 50 substantially encasing the inner member. With traditional post systems a post base is generally constructed from a single material, for example, aluminum or steel. An aluminum post base is light weight, however, does not provide the necessary strength to meet certain horizontal load requirements. On the other hand, a steel post base is strong enough to meet certain horizontal load requirements, but is prone to rusting in inclement ~~whether~~ weather.